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15 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

DCI Security Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Executive Order on Security Classification

1. At the invitation of Bob Gates, NSC Staff, [redacted] OGC/CIA; Bill Blair, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (Public Affairs); and I went to Dr. Gates' office on 12 December 1977 to review with him a rough draft revision of the proposed Executive Order on security classification. Dr. Gates advised us that the mid-September coordination of the earlier draft of the Order had elicited over 500 comments and suggestions for change, with some very significant ones coming from Congressman Preyer. Dr. Gates said a number of changes to the earlier draft had been determined by the White House staff to be necessary, particularly in order to head off potential moves in the Congress to legislate a classification system. The draft we were to read he said, had been prepared by a small ad hoc drafting group (Bob Wells, ICRC; Art Van Cook, Defense; and Gary Barron, NSC Staff), on the basis of instructions from him (Gates) and Rick Neustadt, Domestic Council staff.

2. Messrs. [redacted] and Blair, and myself, found the new draft generally acceptable and still essentially in accord with the thrust of the September version. Dr. Gates accepted most of our requests for changes on items we considered significant. The conditions of the review being that we make no notes and return all copies of the draft, I cannot provide accurate specifics on the new draft. Dr. Gates said in conclusion that he would discuss with Mr. Neustadt the changes we had negotiated, and then have the ad hoc drafting group prepare a new draft for approval by Messrs. Aaron and Eizenstat. Following their concurrence (probably soon after Christmas), the new draft will be remanded to OMB for circulation to the departments and agencies for short-term (about ten working days) comment. Dr. Gates advised that the effective date of the new Order would probably be in the June 1978 time frame.

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3. In connection with Dr. Gates' references to Congressional initiatives towards a legislated classification system, I note that Senator Inouye, in his recent report to the Senate on the work of his committee, expresses the hope that legislation can be introduced in 1978 to deal with "problems of classification of national security information."

cc:	OGC/CIA
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DCI/SECDEF
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